



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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Opening Statement of Sen. Chuck Grassley
United States Senate Finance Committee Hearing on the Nominations of
J. Russell George, to be Inspector General for Tax Administration;
Patrick P. O'Carroll, to be Inspector General, Social Security Administration;
Timothy Bitsberger, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; and
Paul Jones, to be Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board

July 7, 2004

We are here this morning to consider four nominations that are currently pending before the Finance Committee. First, we will hear from Mr. Russell George, who has been nominated by the President to serve as Inspector General for Tax Administration at the Department of the Treasury. Mr. George currently serves as Inspector General at the Corporation for National and Community Service. Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service, he also served as Staff Director of the House Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management, and Intergovernmental Relations. He also served in the White House during the first Bush Administration.

We will then hear from Mr. Patrick O'Carroll, who has been nominated to serve as Inspector General at the Social Security Administration. Mr. O'Carroll currently serves in the Office of the Inspector General at the Social Security Administration as the Assistant Inspector General in the Office of Investigations. Mr. O'Carroll worked with me both in my capacity as Finance chair and when I was chairman of the Aging Committee.

We will also hear from Timothy Bitsberger, who has been nominated to the position of Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets within the Department of the Treasury. Since October 2002, Mr. Bitsberger has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Finance at the Department of the Treasury. I am confident that his experience in financial markets, both at the Department of the Treasury, as well as in the private sector, will serve the taxpayers well in his new position.

Finally, we will hear from Paul Jones, who has been nominated to be a member of the IRS Oversight Board. Mr. Jones currently serves as a Senior Vice-President at Time Warner Telecom.

We will hear from our nominees shortly, but first, I am pleased to recognize my colleague, Senator Sununu, to introduce one of our nominees.